

W5YI REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

Dits & Bits

Fred Maia, W5YI, Editor, P.O. Box 10101, Dallas, TX 75207

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VEC's to Revise Written Ham Tests Every 3 Years

Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, meeting at the ARRL National Convention in Atlanta last weekend, voted to revise the various written examination question pools on a three year cycle.

More than 42,000 applicants were administered nearly 62,000 test elements in the VEC system last year. If present projections hold up, VE's will administer over 75,000 examinations during 1987 to some 48,000 applicants for upgraded amateur radio licenses at over 4,300 test sessions.

The FCC had previously revised the questions annually for all Amateur Radio Operator examinations. The government has been slowly withdrawing from the amateur radio testing business for the past five years. Question pool maintenance was turned over to the various VEC's effective this year and a moratorium on routine question revision went into effect until January 30, 1988. VEC's now completely handle the development, revision and implementation of all written examination questions.

Originally it was contemplated by the FCC that each VEC could, if it wished, have their own unique question pool. VEC's felt that this would not be in the best interest of amateur radio. The FCC agreed and has now mandated that the 20 different VEC organizations must agree on a single test pool.

The main topic covered at this year's VEC Conference was assuming maintenance of the question pool. Thirteen different VEC organizations (out of 20) representing about 95% of all amateur radio examinations administered above the Novice level attended the 1987 conference held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

The FCC's John Johnston, W3BE, Chief of the Personal Radio Branch, and Ralph Haller, N4RH, Deputy Chief, Private Radio Bureau, Washington, D.C. attended on behalf of the FCC. Both gave interesting opening remarks.

DISPUTE ON VEC VOTING PROCEDURE

The meeting got underway with the ARRL-VEC manager, Jim Clary, WB9IHH, asking for a change in the voting arrangements. Jay A. Holladay, W6ELL, the League's First Vice President, made a presentation on behalf of the ARRL arguing that since the FCC appoints VEC's on a regional basis, that VEC's should be allocated votes in the same manner. In other words, VEC's should have one vote for each region in which they have coordinated examinations. The League is a national VEC and coordinates examinations in all 13 regions.

Since most VEC's in attendance, however, coordinate examinations on a smaller

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scale, this proposal was defeated and the one vote per VEC remained. On that basis, the ARRL-VEC abstained from all voting for the remainder of the conference.

REVISION CYCLE FOR QUESTION POOLS

Fred Maia, W5YI, led the discussion on Maintaining the Question Pools. Suggestions for periodic question revision varied from the ARRL's annual revision proposal — to every five years by WCARS Ray Adams, N4BAQ. Amateur Radio license preparation publishers participated in the discussion and Marty Schwartz of AMECO Publishing favored the five year test turnaround also.

Ultimately, the VEC's voted to accept a compromise three year proposal made by Jim Georgias, W9JUG, of the DeVry-VEC. While each of the written amateur radio operator tests (Elements 2/Novice, 3A/Technician, 3B/General, 4A/Advanced, and 4B/Extra Class) will be overhauled every three years, question revisions necessitated by FCC rule amendments and typographical errors will be changed immediately.

A committee was appointed to work out a schedule for the various activities necessary toward implementing the new pools. A program must be developed to solicit new and revised question input from the amateur community and to get concurrence from other VEC's prior to adoption and implementation of a new question pool. It is anticipated that the Extra Class and Advanced pools will be the first to be revised since the Novice, Technician and General Class questions were the last worked on by the VEC's.

Serving on this committee will be: Jim Clary, WB9IHH, ARRL-VEC (Chairman), Ray Adams, N4BAQ, WCARS-VEC and R.C. Smith, W6RZA, Greater Los Angeles ARG-VEC, Fred Maia, W5YI-VEC was named as an alternate.

OTHER TOPICS COVERED BY VEC'S

WCARS' Ray Adam's made a presentation on testing program integrity. It was agreed that all VEC's would ask via a question on their VE application form whether a prospective volunteer examiner had ever been

discredited by any other VEC.

Gordon Girton, W6NLG, of the Sunnyvale-VEC (California) led a discussion on the feasibility of having standardized forms and procedures among all VEC's. It was decided that since each VEC had a slightly different program and that the forms, reports and procedures adapted to each VEC's specific program, further standardization would not be workable at this time.

PETITION TO BE FILED ON CODE TESTING

A petition will be filed by Ray Adams-N4BAQ or behalf of all VEC's requesting that the Morse code testing rules revert back to the previous wording which stated that telegraphy tests "may" and not necessarily "shall" contain all required letters, numbers, and certain punctuation and operating procedure signs (§Part 97.21b). The VEC's will also ask that the "five minute" code test rules in §Part 97.29(c) be amended to read a five minute minimum.

The last presentation of the conference was given by Jim Georgias/W9JUG on preparation of the VEC Instructions. This previously was an FCC function. The instructions will now be called "guidelines". Georgias will prepare and submit a new draft to each VEC for comments before submission to the FCC.

NEXT VEC CONFERENCE TO BE IN DALLAS!

It was agreed that the next VEC Conference would be held in Dallas, Texas, on June 3rd, 1988, during the West Gulf ARRL Ham-Com Convention. Other locations suggested were Portland, Oregon, Gaithersburg, Maryland, Washington, DC, and Gettysburg, PA.

AMATEUR RADIO INDUSTRY MEETING HELD

A meeting of the Amateur Radio Industry chaired by Gary Altman, K4NNK, was held Friday evening, prior to the ARRL National Convention in Atlanta.

(1.) Frosty Oden/N6ENV showed film clips of Astronaut Tony England/WØORE doing amateur radio public service spots. It was

HOLDING AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR CLASSES?	Test Manual:	1 Ea.	5-9	10 or more	Quantity
an	led I	price	100	100	pos
an	led I	price	100	100	\$3.50
an	led I	price	100	100	\$3.00
an	led I	price	100	100	\$3.00 plus postage

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brought out that NASA suggests that all astronauts manning the future space station be amateur radio operators. Half of the \$60,000 cost of the "New World of Amateur Radio" promotional video has been funded by industry and the film should be ready this fall.

(2.) Kantronics' Travis Brann/WA5RGU submitted a written report of a three person committee assigned to develop alternatives to the present method of conducting code tests. The committee recognized that the possibility of a pure no-code license has "resulted in discord in the amateur ranks" previously and failed to pass. The committee questioned the necessity of a newcomer passing a QSO type examination.

Proposed was consolidation of the existing two part Novice (written and telegraphy) examination into a single examination having a passing score of 70%. The examination would have forty questions, thirty of these as are presently selected for the written examination and ten relating to the prospective licensee's ability to recognize the Morse code. A prospective licensee must correctly answer twenty-eight of the questions to achieve a passing grade.

Travis' said that "Recognition of the code is an international requirement for amateur licensing. The methodology of determining ability to recognize is of our regulatory agencies choosing." He suggested that the Novice applicant be asked questions such as:

Circle the Morse symbols for the following letters?

R :	- -	- - -	- .	- -
L :	- -	- - -	- -	- - -
M :	- -	- .	- -	- -

or... Recognition of three character groups sent at 5 wpm. Question: "In the following 10 questions, you will listen to a group of three Morse characters sent at a rate of 5 wpm. Circle the correct answer:"

A:	A L R
B:	P X Z
C:	I D ,
D:	P Q S

Nearly all members of industry supported code recognition and it was agreed

that the ARRL would now be consulted to support the concept before further presentation to the FCC.

(3.) Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, represented the ARRL at the meeting and gave a report on the status of the 220-222 MHz. matter. He said "reams" of comments had been filed and OET (the Office of Science and Technology) is presently "wading" through them. It will be OET that must put together the official position to present to the Commission for consideration "probably around Christmas." This official position will then be coordinated with the Private Radio Bureau for agreement or further negotiation.

Rinaldo said not to expect any Commission action until the January - February 1988 time frame. The Reply Comment period has been extended to July 31, 1987, and the League has already filed over 45 pages of Reply Comments ...and will file some more based on new 220-MHz "Sporadic E" propagation information.

Rinaldo also suggested that the amateur community continue to send letters and make phone calls to the FCC regarding the issue ...and to initiate Congressional Inquiries even though the comment period may be officially over.

(4.) The League also advised that inventories of the Archie Comic Book promoting amateur radio had been depleted and will be updated and reprinted. A "Response Card" will be bound in the center of the comic book on the next print run.

(5.) There was a discussion of a jointly funded promotional ARRL van that would travel to schools. Industry was told that the League has not had time to get to this yet due to the 220-MHz issue.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING....

We had to leave the ARRL National Convention after the industry meeting on Friday evening, July 10th. The ARRL Board of Directors were still in session when we left. We understand (unconfirmed), however, that...

(1.) they voted (split decision) to make a

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proposal on PRB-3 which looks towards having a private sector organization issue specific amateur radio call signs of choice. Details were not given.

(2.) The 1989 ARRL National Convention will be in Dallas, Texas. (Next year - 1988 - it will be in Portland, Oregon.)

(3.) The Amateur Radio Museum has been put "on the back burner."

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FURTHER 40-METER CW SPECTRUM DENIED

The FCC has terminated a proceeding proposing to authorize additional telegraphy privileges in the 40-meter band at 7050 to 7075 kHz to Amateur Novice and Technician control operators located in Alaska, Hawaii and Region 2 Pacific and Caribbean Insular areas. ITU Region 2 encompasses North, Central and South America, i.e. the western hemisphere.

FCC licensed Novice and Technician level amateurs operating from ITU Regions 1 and 3 (the rest of the world) presently have CW privileges in this spectrum due to the existence of severe international shortwave broadcasting interference. A proposal (PR Docket 86-397) was received by the FCC to add certain other peripheral areas in ITU Region 2 to the areas that presently enjoy Novice/Technician 7050-7075 kHz CW privileges. Novice and Technician operators may only operate 40 meter telegraphy between 7100 and 7150 kHz at present in Region 2.

In denying the proposal, the Commission said special telegraphy privileges for Novice and Technician control operators in these ITU Region 2 areas were unwarranted since interference to them from international broadcast stations is no greater than it is to Novice and Technician operation in the continental United States.

(Report & Order, FCC 87-233, July 6, 1987)

• David G. Ackley, W4UWH, phoned us from St. Thomas, USVI, regarding our June 15th article on amateur interference to an ongoing air piracy incident handled in part on the ham bands. He took issue with some of the facts as reported by Herb Schoenbohm, KF4FZ. We have not yet received a promised letter pointing out the alleged discrepancies.

USSR LAUNCHES AMATEUR SATELLITES

AMSAT reports that the newest Soviet Amateur Radio satellites, RS-10 and RS-11 appear to be doing well after their first two weeks in orbit. The two new Russian "OSCARs" were launched from the Soviet Union at 0724 UTC, June 23rd. The launch was "letter perfect" placing the RS's and the primary payload, COSMOS 1861, in a 105 minute orbit inclined 83°.

The Soviet News Agency TASS said COSMOS 1861 was intended to work within the space navigational system with the aim of determining the position of vessels belonging to the USSR's sea going and fishing fleets at any point in the world ocean. The system is similar to the U.S. NAVSTAR Global Positioning System (GPS). The navigation part of COSMOS 1861 may also be used by Leonid Labutin, US3CR during his joint USSR-Canadian polar expedition next winter. (See July 1st issue, Page 9.) RS-10, RS-11 and COSMOS 1861 are all on the same spacecraft and presumably share a common power bus.

RS-10 and RS-11 appear to be identical except for their frequency use. Each uses 15 meters exclusively for uplinks, 10 meters exclusively for downlinks and 2 meters for both uplinks and downlinks. Various combinations yield up to five distinct modes of operation.

MODE:	UPLINK:	DOWNLINK:
Mode K	15 meters	10 meters
Mode T	15 meters	2 meters
Mode A	2 meters	10 meters
Mode KT	15 meters	Both 10 & 2 meters
Mode KA	Both 15 & 2	10 meters

The following are the frequencies for the two new RS's:

MODE	UPLINK: (MHz.)	DOWNLINK: (MHz.)
<u>RS-10:</u>		
K	21.160 - 21.200	29.360 - 29.400
T	21.160 - 21.200	145.860 - 145.900
A	145.860 - 145.900	29.360 - 29.400
KT	21.160 - 21.200	29.360-29.4; 145.86
KA	21.160 - 21.200 & 145.860 - 145.900	29.360 - 29.400
Beacons: 29.357, 29403, 145.857, 145.903 MHz.		
RS-10 ROBOT uplinks: 21.120 & 145.820 MHz.		

W5YI-VEC
P.O. Box 10,000
Dallas, Texas 75207
In 1987 we developed a complete Novice Package that includes an Amateur Radio License, a Novice Class Test Preparation Tape, and a Novice Class Test Preparation Tape. This package is \$24.95 + \$2.40 Shipping and Handling. It includes everything necessary to obtain a ham ticket without ever leaving home.

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MODE UPLINK: (Mhz.) DOWNLINK: (MHz.)

RS-11:

K	21.210 - 21.250	29.410 - 29.450
T	21.210 - 21.250	145.910 - 145.950
A	145.910 - 145.950	29.410 - 29.450
KT	21.210 - 21.250	29.410 - 29.450 & 145.910 - 145.950
KA	21.210 - 21.250 & 145.910 - 145.950	29.410 - 29.400

Beacons: 29.407, 29.453, 145.907, 145.953 Mhz.

RS-11 ROBOT uplinks: 21.130 & 145.830 Mhz.

On both RS-10 and RS-11 it is thought the beacons can carry telemetry as well as the ROBOT downlinks.

The nodal period is 105.02 minutes; the orbital increment is 26.4° west per orbit. A reference orbit for Sunday, July 5 is: 00:14:31 at 61.2° west. Average height is close to 1000 km (621 miles). In comparison to other OSCAR's, the new RS's are higher than UO-11 at 700-km, higher than AO-8 at 900 km, but lower than AO-7 at 1400 km. In fact, RS-10 and RS-11 are much lower than any prior RS's.

NORAD has designated COSMOS 1861 (and its parasites RS-10 and RS-11) as object T8129. Its international designation is 87-54A. The first NASA element set issued is as follows:

Element Set:	10
Ref. Epoch:	87 175.83580769
Inclination:	82.9234
RAAN:	52.3986
Eccentricity:	0.0010447
Argument of Perigee:	256.9500
Mean Anomaly:	103.0527
Mean Motion:	13.71876972
Decay Rate:	6.0e-07
Rev. #:	21

The Sixth ARRL Amateur Radio Networking Conference will be hosted by the TRW Amateur Radio Club and the Southern California Digital Communications Council. The conference will be held at the TRW Space and Technology facility on Compton Blvd. in Rodondo Beach, CA, on August 29th. Further info: Hal Price, NK6K (213) 376-3147.

• Radio Shack (Tandy Corporation) has scheduled a Tenth Anniversary Celebration

for August 3 in New York City. Rumors are that new microcomputers and Tandy desktop publishing will be introduced.

• Buckmaster Publishing (Mineral, Virginia) has a new "HamCall" service which offers amateurs call sign access to QSL information on over 472,000 U.S. amateur radio operators licensed by the FCC. Database is updated every four weeks with new data from the FCC. Eventually the database will be updated weekly. To access the system you need a modem and terminal (or computer) that uses 8 data bits, 1 stop bit and no parity. Speeds of 300, 1200 and 2400 baud are supported. Cost: \$29.95 for individual annual subscription, \$149.95 for clubs with up to 20 members. Contact: Jack Speer (703) 894-5777.

• The International Amateur Radio Network, headed up by Glenn A. Baxter, K1MAN, has filed an intentional interference complaint with the FCC against the 20-Meter Interstate SSB Net which apparently operates on an adjacent frequency. Baxter alleges that KA9FEZ interfered with ongoing emergency traffic involving a reported explosion aboard the vessel, "Miami Vice."

• Apparently there are other illegal video transmitters on the market (See June 15 issue, Page 4). The July 5th Fort Worth (Texas) Star Telegram (newspaper) carried an advertisement of a VS-100 Skycolor Videosender that transmits a UHF signal to all other TV sets in a home. Regularly \$99.95, Special wholesale \$39.95 cost in effect until July 30, 1987. Only a P.O. Box listed.

• The Media Company has Amateur Radio Cartoon Slides available for amateurs who conduct training classes, speak at club meetings or give community presentations pertaining to ham radio. Set of twenty amusing original full-color 35-mm slides depict various aspects of the amateur radio hobby including: ATV, antenna farm, awards, base station operation, contests, CW, digital communications, field day, hamfests, hand-held radios, homebrewing, license exams, license progression, mobile operation, public service communications, repeater operation, satellite communications, TVI, transmitter hunting and worldwide communications. Complete set available for \$19.95. (7709 Durer Court, Springfield,

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VA, Tel: 703-451-4021)

- The new editor of Gateway: The ARRL Packet-Radio Newsletter is Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU. He asks that all contributions be sent to him at: 75 Kreger Drive, Wolcott, CT 06716-2702. (Tel: 203-879-148 or via CompuServe User ID: 70645,247.) Gateway was previously edited at League headquarters.
- "HAMSIG", a new Mensa (high IQ association) Special Interest Group is forming under the leadership of Art Candell, N4PCK, a recently retired foreign correspondent for the Associated Press, Voice of America, a leading news weekly and several foreign newspapers. His Vol. 1 No. 1 issue of "MHZ" carries a July 1987 date. (Further info from: 4153 N.E. 130 Court, Silver Springs, FL 32688. Tel: 904-6225-6464.)
- Recent issue of Mobile Radio Technology tells about technical seminars held at the Energy Telecommunications and Electrical Association Convention in Houston. At one, Robert Snyder, president of LAOAD Consultants criticized the rulemaking that proposes to reallocate 2 MHz of 220-MHz spectrum currently used primarily by amateur radio operators to commercial use. He says (1.) the band from 220-222 MHz is not enough, (2.) the FCC has set the stage for two proceedings instead of one because no specific radio services are designated as spectrum recipients, and (3.) the FCC failed to provide for dedicated data channels needed for supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) operations connected with petroleum production and transmission. Another session entitled "Narrowband ACSSB Radio Techniques" was conducted by Douglas P. Collete, Engineering Vice President of Aerotron, an amplitude campandered single-sideband equipment manufacturer based in Raleigh, N.C.
- The FCC has shut down the Pirate Radio Network, a club of some 300 outlaw CB operators who have interfered with radio and TV reception in the Los Angeles area for more than five years. Kingpin of the illegal network reportedly was Laszlo Hirsch, who also holds the amateur radio callsign, WA6SWG. Hirsch, an electronics expert reportedly holding degrees from UCLA and a

technical institute in his native Hungary, was known in the club as "Pirate Zero." He has been fined \$1,300 and additional action is contemplated. The Pirate Radio Network used a sophisticated touch-tone accessed repeater-like relay station to boost their 27.275 MHz (CB Channel 27) narrowband FM signals — a mode not authorized for citizens band operation. The network also had crossband links to 49-MHz cordless telephone frequencies and GMRS (467-MHz) channels.

- CQ Magazine has a new WNZ Award a special DX award for Novices and Techs - a handsome hand-lettered parchment certificate attesting to the achievement of making and confirming "two-way communications using the U.S. Novice bands and privileges with Amateur Radio stations in at least twenty-five of the forty CQ Zones. WNZ, which stands for "Worked Novice Zones", is available only to U.S. Novice or Technician class licensees and is available in "mixed mode, CW only or SSB."
- On May 28th, the James Madison Middle School (Burlington, Iowa) sixth grade social studies class took the Novice exams. Forty-five youngsters successfully passed and are anxiously awaiting their Novice licenses. Their teacher, George Gruenthal, KA0VPM, started the amateur radio project in his sixth grade classes the previous year. John Lenahan, K0RW, and Larry Newby, WB0BHF of the Iowa-Illinois Amateur Radio Club were kept busy administering and grading the tests. One hundred and twelve students met in three groups in the cafeteria to be examined. Those that did not make it will be encouraged to do so when school starts again in the fall.
- Jerry Bliss, K6SMH — also G0CLY and one of our VE's in England, advises that it takes several months to obtain a reciprocal license to operate an amateur station in the U.K. A Temporary Operating Permit can be requested by a U.K. licensed amateur for a visiting licensed amateur to operate under his personal call sign for a period of 7 days or less. There is no cost and the permit can be obtained in about a week. The U.K. licensed amateur must write on your behalf and obtain the permit from: The Radio Amateur Licensing Unit, Post Office Headquarters, Chetwynd House, Chesterfield, England S49 1PF.

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- VCR boom apparently levelling off. A.C. Nielson Co. finds that there is at least one VCR in 48.7% of TV homes. EIA says sales of new VCRs declining fractionally.
- Israel will be the site of a massive radio relay station for Voice of America, Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty broadcasts to the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Africa. The Soviet Union has taken two international broadcast actions. (1.) they are now beaming Radio Moscow on weekends to the U.S. from Cuba on 1040 kHz AM and (2.) the USSR has discontinued jamming the VOA's Russian language service.
- Trintex, a joint IBM and Sears Roebuck videotex information and transaction service will debut in several cities in early 1988 ...nationally by 1990. Trintex, which requires a 1,200 baud modem and a personal computer, will offer such services as personalized news summaries, airline reservations, shopping, financial transactions, messages and games. Service will be available via local telephone lines for a flat monthly fee.
- Apparently cordless telephones are false dialling 9-1-1 emergency calls all by themselves! A recent survey identified the problem which apparently is not limited to any particular brand. One theory blames random chatter of the switchhook relay and central exchange office software.
- Marantz, a Japanese electronics manufacturer, is going ahead with plans to introduce the first DAT (Digital Audio Tape) recorder into the U.S. market in October. Cost will be about \$1,500 ...blank tapes about \$8 to \$14 each. Advantage of DAT tapes is no tape hiss or loss of quality from the original. Users get the crystal clear sound of compact disks and the ability to record. Pending legislation requires that DAT recorders carry a CBS "copycode" chip that prevents copying specially encoded compact disks. Another bill suggests a royalty be charged on the sale of DAT recorders and tapes which goes to the record industry to cover home taping losses.
- AT&T's Bell Labs is testing ASR - Automatic Speech Recognition - to handle telephone calls that ordinarily require

operator assistance. End result could reduce high cost of operator-assisted calls. Operators will not come on line unless requested or needed ...such as for person-to-person calls.

- While there is much doubt about a new commercial FM broadcast band at 220 MHz, the new WARC-'79 authorized 1600-1700 kHz addition to the standard AM broadcast band is coming. Stations could begin using the 1600-1700 kHz band in the U.S. by the early 1990's.
- The FCC is now collecting license fees from commercial radio spectrum users. Over \$800,000 was received in April according to the Managing Director's office. Some \$2 million expected after May's receipts are tallied. Fees represent administrative costs of processing various applications. Amateur Radio licenses are exempt.
- FCC has declined a request by the Washington Legal Foundation to require labels on cellular telephones reading "Privacy of communications may not be assured when using this phone." WLF is a public interest law center with 80,000 members - many of whom are cellular telephone users. In its petition, WLF contended that cellular telephones are susceptible to interception and that most cellular users are unaware of this problem. WLF based its petition on the premise that the FCC requires similar labelling on cordless telephones. The FCC pointed out that recent legislation makes it a crime to intercept cellular calls and it would be premature to adopt labelling without knowing the effect of the legislation. This action does not dispose of the other petition by Regency Electronics to require warning labels on receiving scanners.
- The FCC's Sunshine Agenda for July 16th calls for the Commission to consider the long awaited improvement of the General Mobile Radio Service. GMRS is the 8-pair 462/467 MHz FM CB service that is used primarily by emergency preparedness groups. After ten years, the Commission will finally get around to rulemaking which is rumored to be a NPRM. The item is called: "Amendment of Subparts A and E of § Part 95 to include the General Mobile Radio Service." While not directly affecting the Amateur Service, there are many hams that participate in GMRS.

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THAILAND SEIZES U.S. AMATEUR'S STATION

We recently received a letter from Charlie Kelley/W5SPK (Texarkana, TX) - also HS1AOD in Thailand. On June 10th, agents from the Thai PTT (Postal Telegraph Telecommunications, similar to our FCC) along with Thai police broke into a locked cabinet and confiscated all of his amateur radio equipment - including a Kenwood TS-430S HF transceiver and power supply. He had never used them and stored them upstairs in a restaurant owned by his wife (a Thai citizen) - a place that also was used for the newly formed KORAT Amateur Radio and Computer Club.

Thailand, even though an ITU member, does not yet issue individual amateur radio licenses since the Minister of Communications has deemed the activity "not appropriate for Thailand at this time." Recently the president of RAST (Radio Amateur Society of Thailand) approached the Thai National Security Council and convinced them that Amateur Radio would not be harmful to their security.

The NSC then advised their decision and directed that the legal status of amateur radio be recognized. The PTT was assigned the task of drawing up the regulations. A permanent club station was set up and now can operate in Bangkok from Friday night through Sunday night. The new amateur radio regulations have now been completed and are awaiting publication.

Charlie's equipment was confiscated due to a little known law that forbids a civilian from owning or operating any radio communications equipment that will receive any signals that are not in the AM, FM or television band! Charles asked me to tell U.S. amateurs that unbelieveable laws exist in Thailand.

"As much money as the U.S. government gives in foreign aid, military aid, economic trade, 'preferred country' status, Peace Corps Volunteers and other assistance, our government should be able to bring pressure to get such laws removed from the books as being oppressive and violating human rights. With your assistance, we could let the U.S. amateur world know about this situation and let the chips fall where they may."

PETITION TO EXPAND AUXILIARY SPECTRUM

George Bednekoff, KA1OCN, of Lawrence, Kansas, has filed a Petition for Rule-making seeking to add two megahertz (from 52 to 54 MHz) in the six meter ham band to the frequency bands available for auxiliary operation in the Amateur Radio Service.

He wants §Part 97.86(d) to read that auxiliary operation may take place on "52 - 54 MHz and all amateur frequency bands above 220.5 MHz except 431 - 433 MHz and 435 - 438 MHz." to "...allow two additional types of operation in part of the Amateur six meter band: Remote base operation and extended point-to-point radio links."

Bednekoff's petition states "A remote base usually consists of a conventional amateur station and a 220 or 440 repeater station sharing the same superior antenna site and control system. This gives mobile and portable amateur stations the extended range of a repeater amateur station. This capability has been very useful to severe weather spotters here in Eastern Kansas. I see no reason why the lightly loaded 52 - 54 MHz repeater band cannot also be used in the control of remote base stations."

"The second type of auxiliary operation envisioned for the 52 - 54 MHz band, extended point-to-point links, would allow the interconnection of Amateur repeater stations over distances that cannot be reliably covered by a single link at 220.5 MHz and higher. The ability of 52 MHz radio waves to follow the surface of the earth and reduced signal loss due to vegetation would allow a greater point-to-point link in the six meter band to span a greater distance than radio links in the present auxiliary bands."

"Again, because unused frequencies are available in the 52 - 54 MHz band in all parts of the country (see 52 - 54 MHz section of the ARRL Repeater Directory) this type of auxiliary operation can be accommodated in part of the six meter band without disrupting existing repeater operations."

Bednekoff also contends that his proposed rule amendment would allow him to use

"I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a CET [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I have [REDACTED] In order to obtain my license revoked or suspended, I do not own a significant amount of amateur radio equipment and do not have a significant amount of amateur radio equipment.

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readily available surplus Land Mobile radio equipment for auxiliary operation.

A side benefit, not mentioned, is that additional repeater control link spectrum will definitely be needed if the Commission goes ahead with their proposal to reallocate the top 2 megahertz of the 220-MHz band to Land Mobile as proposed in Gen. Docket 87-14. (Petition received FCC on June 29, 1987)

WASTED LETTERS TO THE FCC....

Speaking before the Fifth Annual Gospelrama Gospel Expo Convention in Washington, D.C., FCC Commissioner James H. Quello, reported the lastest statistics in one of the Commission's strangest proceedings.

More than ten years ago, two broadcasting consultants petitioned the FCC to re-examine its rules regarding the granting of radio and television station licenses to church organizations. Even though the FCC denied the request on August 1, 1975, millions of letters against the petition continue to pour into the agency because, in Quello's words, "the petition has somehow been misconstrued as an atheistic plot to keep God and religion off the air."

The letters totalled 20 million at the end of 1986. Over 1.2 million letters opposing the long-dead petition arrived last year alone!

"Believe me, we God-fearing Commissioners have truly seen the light," Quello said. "Please don't keep those cards and letters rolling in. We are not administratively equipped to handle them. More importantly," he told the audience, "remember that those wonderful but misinformed letter writers have now spent over \$4 million in postage alone! This doesn't count the envelope, paper, time and effort in mailing."

At his Washington office, one of the consultants, Jeremy D. Lansman, chuckled over the news of the massive letter-writing campaign. "What I really had in mind was helping to support the Postal Service through its time of struggle," he told us. "Now that the Postal Service is profitable, I suppose we can lay off."

POSTAL RATES TO INCREASE NEXT YEAR

Apparently all is not as well with the U.S. Postal Service as believed, however. There is a move underway within the Reagan administration to remove the first class letter delivery monopoly that the USPS currently enjoys. In a recent speech by FTC chairman, Daniel Oliver, the Postal Service is called "a glaring example of government monopoly.. The nature of a monopoly is to charge higher prices while restricting consumer choices."

He proposed repealing the Private Express Statutes passed by Congress in 1872 to protect USPS revenues. The statutes give that agency the legal right to shut down a competing first class letter delivery service.

You can expect a 13.6% increase in first class postal rates next year ...to 25¢. Magazines will pay 9 to 19% more in second class rates, third-class bulk mailers up to 32% more.

Rates for overnight mail, however, where the USPS has big competition from Federal Express, United Parcel ...and many others, will be restructured to make them more competitive. Under the new pricing structure, overnight mail up to 8-oz will be delivered for \$8.75 - an 18.6% drop.

UK VERSION OF JY1 JORDAN/ISRAEL QSO

The July issue of Radio Communication, the Radio Society of Great Britain journal chronicles the recent exchanges between Jordan's King Hussein and Israeli amateurs during the April Passover holidays. We originally picked this story up from the Israel Amateur Radio Club newsletter.

The British version tells how King Hussein paid an impromptu visit to Ed Benou, G0BBD, in Stanmore, Middlesex. Benou, a Brazilian national who speaks fluent Arabic, frequently QSO's with the king. Hussein (with the world's only 2-by-nothing amateur call sign of JY1) had been impressed with the signal Ed puts into the Middle East and wanted to see his equipment and antenna. The two amateurs had met in person some years ago during the king's last official visit to the

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members of the Radio Society of Harrow, of which he is an honorary life member, having attended Harrow School as a boy.,

On April 18th, JY1, his young son, Prince Hamza, and his adjutant, Major Chukry, JY3AK, decided to go to see Benou that afternoon. He stayed over an hour-and-a-half chatting, having tea and operating Ed's station with his own UK call sign GØDEY/JY1. He made a number of contacts on the 14 MHz band, mainly with stations in Israel. Amateur contacts between Jordan and Israel are prohibited, but this was between England and Israel.

Israel's shortwave service, The Voice of Israel broadcast the following announcement of the historic amateur radio contacts on April 26th: "Hullo, and welcome to the DX corner. Once again, the amateur radio short wave bands have been used in a most striking fashion to display international goodwill. For the first time in the history of amateur radio, the King of Jordan has appeared on the amateur radio bands to greet Israeli amateur radio operators."

"King Hussein, an enthusiastic amateur radio operator for nearly 20 years, who operates under the callsign JY1, was on a private visit to England eight days ago, when he visited the home of a well-known London radio amateur, Edy Denou, GØBBD. At that time, Edy happened to be in contact with a number of radio friends in Israel. Without the slightest hesitation, the Jordanian Monarch took over the microphone and exchanged greetings with several of the Israeli hams on frequency at the time."

"Except in Egypt, there are no amateur radio exchanges allowed between Israel and the surrounding countries in the Middle East. Normally therefore, King Hussein does not speak to Israeli hams from Jordan. In this case, however, he was transmitting from England with his UK callsign of GØDEY, consequently the Israeli hams speaking to him were not violating any rules."

A photograph of King Hussein in QSO with Israel appears on page 482 of the July issue of the RSGB journal.

QCWA HONORS EX-FCC COMMISSIONER

QCWA President Leland Smith, W5KL, has presented George Sterling, W1AE, age 93, of Portland, Maine, with its first ever QCWA 75 Year Licensed Award Plaque.

George established his first transmitting and receiving station in 1908 when he was only 14 years old before radio was regulated. He used his initials "GS" as his call sign. Everything had to be home-made ...spark coils, tuners, condensers and the like. Crystal detectors were found in the woods ...iron pyrites. Aerial wire was "borrowed" from an abandoned rural telephone line. Only headphones were purchased.

Amateurs began to get into trouble with the government in 1909. Many of them had more powerful stations than those of the military and commercial services. They accounted for 80% of all stations on the air and could operate on any frequency. Congress passed the Radio Act of 1912 which not only called for federal licensing of radio stations, but restricted amateur operation to 200 meters and lower at a maximum power of one kilowatt.

On August 12, 1912, George Sterling was asked to take an examination for his station. He did, passed ...and was assigned 1AE. When prefixes were added, George became W1AE. He had other calls, but got his original call sign back in 1954 when he retired. George is listed in the 1912 issue of the U.S. Department of Commerce publication, "First Licensed Amateurs."

George was wartime head of RID, the Radio Intelligence Division. After World War I, he became a Radio Inspector, went on to become an FCC Engineer and was eventually appointed an FCC Commissioner - the only licensed amateur radio operator to hold this position. His famous "Sterling's Radio Manual" was written in 1927.

In other QCWA news, QCWA Vice President, Ethel Smith, K4LMB has submitted her resignation effective September 1, 1987, due to her need to care for her sick husband and elderly mother.